

WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.
MR. CAREY ON THE HISTORY OF OUR CURRENCY.

In his second and third letters, Mr. Carey reviews the position taken by President Buchanan regarding the evils of a paper (credit) circulation, and the remedy therefor. He considers that these views are proved erroneous by the history of our banking operations, and the financial disturbances to which this country has been subject. The plan of his argument is this: To assume a change in the general banking policy of the country about the year 1836—to refer its previous prosperity and happy freedom from great reversions to the first system—to refer the frequent losses and commercial and manufacturing failures to the second. However striking some of the facts adduced may be—however much of laborious research and careful study they may exhibit—their value in the argument ceases when this connecting link is broken. We will endeavor to test its soundness. If it fails—though the facts are undeniable—it only prove and illustrate a new theory or a law.

We take direct issue with the author of these letters on a question of fact. We deny wholly that, at any time, there has been effected—though it may have been contemplated—such a change in our legislation as forms the grand point in his series of premises. We deny that there was, at the time which he refers, any such action on the part of the National Government as affected materially and for the worse the condition of the State banks, (for which he pleads), or has caused the recent disturbances of trade. From the variety which his repetition affords, we select the following as the shortest description of this change: "Such is the history of banking in the United States since the peace of 1783, a period of seventy-five years, during the first fifty of which, the power reserved by the States had been observed—and that, too, most scrupulously—by Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and the younger Adams; whereas, since that time, there has been an unceasing effort to weaken the States, while strengthening the Central Power."

This remarkable event—about which hitherto we have been in total ignorance—this change, so pregnant with disaster and shame, happened about the year 1836, in the Presidency of Jackson.

Now, we ask, what check from the National Government is there which at present operates upon the action of the State-chartered banks? There is one. The Independent Treasury, or Sub-Treasury. When useful opposition. It is now acknowledged by nearly all intelligent and honest merchants, and a most valuable safeguard of our commerce, and a most valuable safeguard of the banks. No one, who is not blinded by the most morbid prejudices, will hesitate to confess that there is nothing in it to weaken the banks, or make them less safe. On the contrary, it is true that it is a good regulator of a bad system; that it discourages the over issue of notes, and strengthens the banking institutions, and the community generally, in the occurrence of a commercial crisis.

At the commencement of the present revolution the Treasury had about twenty millions of specie. Had it not been for this institution, gold money would have been sent to Heathendom long since; as it is, it has been disbursed for the public benefit. "What intelligent business man would dispense with the Sub-Treasury? Yet we are told, in letter No. 3, that the result of the war, thus commenced," by the General Government—"the use of circulating paper have been repudiated" by it; "vaults having been constructed in which to store the national treasures," which "has been since followed up"—the result in short of the Independent Treasury Bill—"is seen in the fact that gold has ceased to circulate, and the Treasury is driven to the use of inconvertible notes." This conclusion has not the least slightest foundation. It is true that the Treasury Department has issued its notes; but not as a result of the operation of the Sub-Treasury—only in spite of its partial and valuable protection. How was it in 1837? The Government could not pay its own postage bills in specie. Now, long after the banks broke down, the Treasury continued to pay out millions of real value money. If it had not been for this institution, the Government would have become bankrupt long before it did. If it had not been for this institution, it could not have had the money so long to maintain its payments, for the benefit of the country—thus breaking the shock which the derangement of the currency caused. So much for that interference of the National Power, at present, in these delicate State banking concerns, which, Mr. Carey thinks, causes all this commercial distress. Such is the solitary check imposed by the Government which simply receives its revenues in specie, paying its debts in specie—thus keeping the specie in the country, and maintaining a healthy circulation—in part at least. And this check is clearly most valuable to the banks. But what has been the interference in the past, on the part of the National Government—what check has been imposed—what harmful, meddling laws have been enacted? Show them if you can. This change is wholly imaginary—the offering of a mirror to conjure it up from the records of legislation. There has been no such difference in our financial policy. It is true that Andrew Jackson kicked over the National Bank. What then? The National Bank was a national check on the State banks—such as Mr. Carey most earnestly deprecates. Its over-tight left the State banks free to issue their credit as fast as they could get it out. It is not exactly consistent or sensible to say that the commencement of national interference, and the first of national checks imposed, was a measure which removed the greatest check ever imposed by the General Government, and left the banks free to regulate their own movements according to the laws of the several States.

Surely, Mr. Carey should glory in this, and give thanks unto Jackson! Our limited acquaintance with American political history furnishes us with no other occasions in which the Government has interfered with the right of the States to charter banks of credit circulation. We do not believe that they can be found. We believe that this link—which connects the steadiness of commercial prosperity before 1836, and the fluctuations of our progress since—is entirely an invention of the adversary, (not the adversary, but Mr. Carey). This link might give meaning and valuable significance to the whole premises, as he has placed them. But the fact is, the banks are entirely free—as far as the influence of the National Government is concerned—to issue their precious, infallible promises, at pleasure, and they do it; and the argument, which is based on a denial of this, is worthless. We believe

the letter is signed "Henry C. Carey—Philadelphia, December 28th, 1857."

"Turning now to our Treasury, we find it all ready bankrupt, even in the commencement of this downward movement. Irredeemable paper (the Treasury notes—20 millions, if they are fully issued) being now substituted for gold and silver, the influx of foreign merchandise, and the effect of the precious metals will be much promoted; and thus will the way be smoothed towards total bankruptcy—such as was witnessed in 1841 and 1842."

"I thank thee, Jew, for the word." That was the unkindest cut of all. "Irredeemable paper," your old friend, when in the guise of State-bank notes! Mr. Carey, how could you? The assertion which you make, that the substitution of irredeemable paper (and two-thirds of our paper currency is irredeemable—as the suspension and the specie returns of the banks show) causes the afflux of the precious metals, and the influx of foreign merchandise—this assertion, which is wholly true, is a most valuable concession to the principle of free trade and hard money.

Every sensible, unprejudiced economist has known and said it long and often. But that a protective writer like yourself could do it, we never believed. Truly, if twenty millions of paper money has such a disastrous effect, what may we not charge upon the one hundred millions—and more than that—of purely credit money, which has been our circulating medium? Surely, if the late Government issues "smooth the way towards total bankruptcy," the credit currency, in which the people of this country have so long indulged, has applied the motive power. If that has opened the door, this has kicked it out.

Furthermore, our author cherishes a favorite impression, which he rooted at some time, in some place, after some manner, and under some peculiar circumstances, that our banking institutions are maintained for the purpose of negotiating loans between those who have spare capital and those who need it in their business—places at which those who had money to lend could readily meet those who desired to borrow. Why, my dear sir, how stupid, how old-fashioned! Is it possible that you do not know that banks are established for the express, confessed purpose of making money—to "increase the capital of the country"—to "make money more plenty," &c. &c. Why, we suppose that the reason for the marked change in the safety of business and the security of the currency, which you have shown by your laborious and praiseworthy research, is found, not in any change of national policy, but in the simple fact, that banks began then fully to appreciate their high and beneficent mission—namely, and in plain words, to increase the debt of the country; lengthen general credit; and substitute for value money a cheap, credit currency, exposed to all the terrible vicissitudes of credit. Such a desirable reform they have effected. You can see the baleful results of an issue of \$50,000,000 of Treasury notes, which will not probably go into general circulation. But you believe that the circulation, at the almost exclusive money of the country, of over \$100,000,000 of credit, is an unmitigated good. Permit us to say, that the cause of your clear-sightedness in the one case, and blindness in the other, is justly to be thus explained. The Treasury notes are issued to meet the necessities of a Democratic Administration. The use of credit money, on the other hand, enables large dividends of profit to be declared on the immense banking capital of the United States. Such prejudices we believe to be potent to open or shut the eyes to the plainest truths.

Distinguished legislators have assumed that there is \$260,000,000 of the coined money of the United States within its limits. Mr. Carey very properly asks, "where is it?" He thinks it hoarded. But very little of it. It has been used for articles of fine dress for the men and women, fine plate for the table, and fine harness for horses. Much of it, undoubtedly, has gone from the country to Europe, and thence to barbarism, in methods which have escaped the investigation of statisticians. If this be true, the recipe for calling this hoarded gold into circulation will not be needed. But it is worth while to consider the method by which it was, according to our author, to be brought into the channels of commerce. A very pretty simile, or story, of the nature of fable and parable, is used; the moral of which is, that the country should look longingly upon the money promises of the banks, and thus warm money promises to the hard heart of the hard money. What folly! Gold only needs a fair free, honest circulation, and it will remain in use. Providing a substitute for it, which possesses no inherent value, drives it away. Yet, we are told that the proper way to bring it back is, to acknowledge the transcendent and beneficial qualities of this worthless, degrading substitute, which has in a few years sent away hundreds of millions of the products of our mines. Gold goes where it is needed, filling the channels of circulation with other currency; credit displaces the gold, and it leaves us. The remedy, then, for the non-circulation of gold, is to abolish the Sub-Treasury, and recognize in our national legislation the virtue of shipplasters! Does not our Government now play the part of the "Sun," watching into life this swarm of pestiferous credit? Has it not always done this? and is it not this policy which has lost to us our gold circulation? Most certainly, and undeniably. F. A. W.

INTERESTING FROM RUSSIA.

PROGRESS OF THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

Correspondence of the Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung.

St. Petersburg, April 24, 1858.

Since the Easter holidays the journals of St. Petersburg have announced the fact that ten more Governments—among them some of the largest and most populous—have declared their intention of appointing committees to act upon the emancipation of the serfs. Most of the Governments have acceded to the plan. Twenty-nine have already announced officially their intention of doing so, and these contain considerably more than half the population of the entire empire. As to the activity of the committees, little is known, and probably but a few of them have yet commenced operations. On them, and on the willingness and energy of the Governors, depends the success of the under-taking.

POLISH FRONTIER, May 4, 1858.

The Emperor has decreed that there shall be no more recruiting for the army before 1860; so that, if Russia should find herself compelled to concentrate a large force in the west, it will have to be brought in a large proportion from the east.

St. Petersburg, April 26, 1858.

It is reported that Suwaroff, late Governor General of the Baltic Provinces, has been appointed Viceroy of Poland, in the place of Prince Gortschakoff, and it is confidently expected that Panin, the Minister of Justice, will shortly be replaced by some person more capable of satisfying the people. They desire, among other improvements, the establishment of trial by jury—a thing that would present a very appearance in a small Russian provincial town. All improvements, however, on the Minister of Finance than on the Minister of Justice; for, so long as the latter is denied the privilege of giving the judges and their assistants adequate salaries, no reforms will be of any avail.

whence they rapidly spread in the interior of Lithuania, towards Grodno, Minsk, Smolensk, and Orel. They were most formidable in Tauroggen, near the Prussian frontier, and were only quelled by the advance of a large body of hussars. They will perhaps continue for some time longer, and make the circuit of the Empire. Their cause is said to be the erroneous idea which has gained ground among the peasantry, that their serfdom had already been terminated by the Emperor. Some go so far as to say that the priests were the instigators of the outbreaks. The investigation is being vigorously prosecuted. In Tauroggen it appears that a certain Herz Adam succeeded in convincing the people that they had been suffering the infliction of serfdom for years after they had been liberated by the Emperor, and that they could demand indemnification at the hands of their oppressors. The peasants assembled in masses, on horseback, and rode to the residence of Prince Wassilshoff, in Tauroggen, where they made their demands, and declared that they would not return to service before they were satisfied. As we have already stated, the approach of armed forces brought them to terms. The fact of the matter seems to be, that the peasants can scarcely wait the time, when their serfdom shall terminate, and knowing just so much of their condition, that they shall be free something, they have come to look upon the proprietors as leagued with the officials to delay the fulfillment of their emancipation. It is not then strange that they are easily excited to rebellion by the cunning speeches of artful and designing intriguers.

From the Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung, May 6.

The Berlin Journals contain a telegram from St. Petersburg, dated May 3, which runs thus: "A complete programme of work has been agreed upon by the committee of nobles established with reference to the Serf question."

It contains three divisions. The first relates to the statement of principles, the second to their application to every estate, and the third to the composition of a code of laws for the country population. For the preparation of the first part, both statistical and systematic, six months are allowed. After the expiration of this period, the serfs are to obtain the rights of the tax-paying classes, but are still to remain bound to their estates until they shall have purchased themselves free-dom."

Correspondence of the Independence Belge.

St. Petersburg, April 27, 1858.

My last letter apprised you of several reports touching the expected changes in the Administration. The same rumors, slightly varied, are still in circulation. The Prince Orloff, after having pledged all his property to the Crown, would have withdrawn, but for serious dissensions in the Supreme Committee of Emancipation, which is presided over by the Emperor. I am assured, that a good authority, that Count Kiseleff has refused to succeed Prince Orloff, as he did to succeed Prince Gortschakoff at Warsaw. As to the Minister of War, the new arrangement of which I have spoken is still to be preserved; but there will be delay, and during the absence of General Skoukousset, Prince Wassilshoff, so often named in these letters, is to direct the Ministry as Deputy of the Minister. It is an old story revamped.

There is much talk to-day of an ukase which is to appear day after to-morrow, and which will cut short the difficulties attending the great question of enfranchisement. Emancipation is to be pure and simple. For three years, the peasants are not to be allowed to leave their estates; but during that time, the proprietors are to make with them the necessary arrangements for their emancipation. At the end of this period, the Government is to intervene, wherever the question may not have been settled, but no arrangement is to extend beyond 25 years—the extreme term for which the estates are to be pledged to the Loan Bank. However, the ukase is to consecrate anew the inalienable right of property in the noblesse. This new measure, according to some quick-sighted persons, is not without its merits, with a determination which to withdraw from business, and go abroad. I have told you that he has pledged all his estates to the Loan Bank; now I tell you that landholders have done the same. This is not a report; it is a fact—at least, it comes to me from a source by which I have never been deceived.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK.

Distressing Suicide of an Author.

Henry William Herbert, better known by his writings as "Frank Forester," committed suicide on Monday morning, at the Stevens House, in New York, by shooting himself through the left breast. He had, it appears, for some weeks been very depressed in spirits, owing to his separation from his second wife, to whom he had been a short time married. Further than that, the separation is not known, further than that some woman had made mischief between them, as is alleged in a letter from the deceased.

On Sunday, Mr. Herbert sent for his friend, Mr. Anthon, and requested him to remain with him as long as possible, as he was lonely and depressed. He told Mr. Anthon that he intended to commit suicide on the same day of the month upon which he was married the second time. This was on the 16th of February last. It did not occur to Mr. Anthon at the time that Sunday was the 16th of the month. He first thought of committing the act over the grave of his first wife, in the cemetery at Newark, but altered his intention in that respect. Mr. Anthon remained with him, sitting up with him till 2 A. M., trying to prevail upon him not to commit the rash act, but he seemed determined. While they were in Mr. Herbert's parlor together, at the above-mentioned hour, Mr. Herbert retired (apparently for a moment) to the bedroom adjoining, when Mr. Anthon heard the discharge of a pistol. In another moment Mr. Herbert came reeling out of the room, exclaiming, "I told you I would do it," and fell upon the floor. The charge having entered his breast, and passed through his lungs, he died in a few minutes of hemorrhage. He left letters addressed to the press, to the corner, and to Mr. Anthon.

In his letter to the press he implores silence, that his good and his evil deeds may be interred with his bones; declares that all his writings have been put forth with good intentions, and that under the pressure and temptation of poverty and necessity he had done things of which he was ashamed, and probably would not under the same circumstances do again. He then adds:

"For justice's sake, for charity's sake, for God's sake, let me rest. I bear an honorable name; I have striven hard, in great trial, in great temptation, in a foreign country, in a false position, among those who did not—perhaps could not—sympathize with me, to keep it honorable. As you would have your own name honored, and your sons preserve them to you, I charge you do not dishonor me. * * * I ask no praise—do not praise me—probably I deserve none. I deserve reproach, doubtless, for I am mortal, and have sinned; say so, then, of me, if you say anything, and let my sins go with my mortality to His judgment who can tell, not only when and where, but why they were committed, and how far they have pollution—how far they deserve pardon. Remember the matter ended."

There are twelve ex-Governors in the United States Senate, two in the House, and three in the Cabinet. Those in the Senate are Hamlin of Me., Allen of R. I., Seward of N. Y., Bigler of Pa., Reid of N. C., Hammond of S. C., Fitzpatrick of Ala., Brown of Miss., Bell and Johnson of Tenn., Crittenden of Ky., and Polk of Mo.; and four are elected to the next Senate, Messrs. Smith of Va. and Quitman of Miss. are the only ex-Governors in the House.

The late Col. McClung, of Mississippi, once got into a dispute in the office of the Prentiss House, at Vicksburg, with a rowdy, when, to end the matter without further delay, he took the rowdy by the "nape of the neck," led him to the door, and kicked him into the street. The kicked picked himself up, and walked away, and here the matter ended.

edited the American Monthly Magazine, besides writing largely for the various illustrated periodicals. He subsequently published a number of interesting works. It appears he received a hundred pounds yearly from his father, for his support. But his extravagant habits made that and what he was earning a small income for him. His novels at once seized the public attention, and soon gained him an enviable fame. He was a man of tall and commanding appearance, 52 years of age; had a fine imagination, and strong power of conceiving character; his rich store of learning gave him unusual facility of expression, and his cultivated taste taught him by its intuition what was best. He was one of the most profound scholars we ever had in the country, and as a writer, possessed genius of no common order. His last work was an elaborate one on the fish and game of his country; his pursuits and tastes inclining him to the life of a sportsman and the study of natural history. His first wife died some years since, leaving a child, on whom was settled the country seat called "The Cedars," near Newark, N. J., purchased for him by his English friends, where Mr. Herbert was married the second time, to a beautiful and accomplished lady. Latterly he had suffered much from ill health.

He leaves an aged mother living in England, a sister who was married in this country and sailed in the last steamer, and a brother who is Governor of the Channel Islands, besides a son in the British army.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The receipts of the various religious and benevolent organizations, that held their anniversary meetings in New York last week, have been better sustained for the last year than could reasonably have been expected. We give a table of the figures, compared with the same for the previous year:

	1857-8.	1857-8.
American Tract Society.....	\$429,586	\$383,153
American Bible Society.....	441,805	399,750
American Board of Com. for Foreign Missions.....	1,185,600	1,185,600
and the same terms to May 1, 1858—nine months.....	227,349	183,736
American Home Missionary Society.....	178,060	175,971
Presbyterian Board Foreign Missions.....	205,788	223,977
Methodist Episcopal Miss. Society.....	162,617	183,662
Methodist Episcopal S. S. Union.....	14,316	11,268
Methodist Episcopal Tract Society.....	5,679	5,818
American Baptist Home Missionary Society.....	44,507	52,095
American and F. Baptist Bible Society.....	45,000	40,125
New York Bible Society.....	21,755	18,712
American and F. C. Union American Episc. Church Domestic Miss. (one year to May).....	56,025	55,929
American Episc. Church Foreign Missions.....	60,569	77,228
New York Sunday School Union.....	15,538	13,039
Seamen's and Sailors' Friend Society.....	23,812	25,236
Female Guardian Society.....	30,353	49,719
Female Magdalen Society.....	3,334	2,925
American Anti-Slavery Society.....	33,162	35,967
New York State Colonization Society.....	36,913	57,624
National Comp. Emancipation Society, (first anniversary meeting).....	190	
Total.....	\$2,106,443	\$2,081,807

The Mr. Hayne appointed to fill Senator Evans's place from South Carolina is a brother of Gen. Hayne, famous for his encounter with Mr. Webster on the nullification question in 1832. He was opposed to his brother's course in regard to nullification, and is now by the fire-ates considered as a conservative. It was supposed a Mr. Chestnut, a noted "fire-ate" orator of South Carolina, would have been appointed, and the Governor's selection of Mr. Hayne, in his stead, indicates his tendencies as a Southern conservative or Union man—i. e., a man who does not believe in dissolving the Union, if the South cannot have its own way always on the Slavery question. It is reported that it was the intention of the leaders in the Legislature to elect Mr. Chestnut at the time Gov. Hammond was chosen to succeed Mr. Butler; but the complimentary plurality vote to Gov. Hammond, that the majority and included, unexpectedly, proved a majority, and he was chosen by acclamation. A somewhat similar slip occurred in the Berkshire district, a few years ago, when an informal ballot settled the question, long before it was intended it should be settled; and everybody felt very awkward, especially those who had given "only a complimentary vote" to the successful candidate, intending when the real contest came to support a different man.—Springfield Republican.

A Story about Lying. Davidson College, North Carolina, contributes a good story of a man with a very bad habit. As it is all about lying, the reader may believe it or not, as he likes:

"In the old North State lives a certain John Long, who draws a long bow whenever he has anything to tell, and his character for truth and veracity has been below zero for many years. Captain Johnson had been so taken in by one of John's outrageous stories, that he said to him, in a pet:

"If you make me believe one your lies again in a month, I'll give you fifty dollars!" John pretended to be hurt by the offer, and went off. A few days after he was riding by the captain's, post-haste on horseback, when the captain called out to him:

"I say! Hello, Johnny! stop and tell us a lie or two this morning!"

John rode on, but cried out most dolefully: "No time for lying now; brother Jimmy has just been killed in the machine, and I'm going for the old folks." On he went.

Captain Johnson ordered his horse, and rode over to see the dead man and offer his services, but found him alive and well, ginning cotton, and in no danger of the machine. Just then, John rode up and demanded the fifty dollars. The captain declared it was a rascally trick, but he would have had to pay the money if John had not let him off.

There are twelve ex-Governors in the United States Senate, two in the House, and three in the Cabinet. Those in the Senate are Hamlin of Me., Allen of R. I., Seward of N. Y., Bigler of Pa., Reid of N. C., Hammond of S. C., Fitzpatrick of Ala., Brown of Miss., Bell and Johnson of Tenn., Crittenden of Ky., and Polk of Mo.; and four are elected to the next Senate, Messrs. Smith of Va. and Quitman of Miss. are the only ex-Governors in the House.

The late Col. McClung, of Mississippi, once got into a dispute in the office of the Prentiss House, at Vicksburg, with a rowdy, when, to end the matter without further delay, he took the rowdy by the "nape of the neck," led him to the door, and kicked him into the street. The kicked picked himself up, and walked away, and here the matter ended.

was thrown into the sea by a charge of three thousand pounds of gunpowder, and thirty thousand tons of material were thus instantaneously removed from the line of the works.—London Quarterly Review.

A snob is that man or woman who are always pretending before the world to be something better—especially richer or more fashionable—than they are. It is one who thinks his own position in life contemptible, and is always yearning and striving to force himself into one above, without the education or characteristics which belong to it; one who looks down upon, despises, and overrides his inferiors, or even equals of his own standing, and is ever ready to worship, fawn upon, and flatter, a richer or a titled man, not because he is a good man, a wise man, or a Christian man, but because he has the luck to be rich or consequential.—Thackeray.

Mr. Charles Dickens, having given many public readings of some of his Christmas books, for the benefit of the public, he is now going to apply the old proverb, and read for himself.

VICTORIA BRIDGE AT MONTREAL.—Imagine a bridge seven times and a half longer than Waterloo Bridge, or not a great deal less (176 feet) than two miles; imagine the span between the central piers to be 330 feet wide, and the other spans—twenty-four of them—242 feet; imagine this bridge to be a tube, like the one over the Menai Strait; and you will have a general idea of a work now actually in progress—the Victoria Bridge at Montreal. But the idea will be a very vague one; and to bring it more into shape, you must imagine that the river spanned by the monster tube runs frequently at the rate of ten miles an hour, and that it brings down the ice of 2,000 miles of lakes and upper rivers with numerous tributaries, and piles it at Montreal to the height of thirty—forty—fifty feet. You will now obtain a notion of the necessary thickness and solidity of the work, and be able to suppose piers, or supports, containing some 6,000 and some 8,000 tons of masonry. The whole weight of masonry in the bridge, when completed, will be about 220,000 tons, and the bulk three million cubic feet. The faces of the piers looking towards the current terminate in a sharp-pointed edge, while the sides present to the avalanches of ice only smooth, bevelled-off surfaces. The stone is a dense blue limestone; "scarcely a block of which," says the *Canadian News*, from which we obtain these particulars, "is less than seven tons weight, and many of those exposed to the force of the breaking up ice weigh fully ten tons. The blocks are bound together, not only by the use of the best water-cement, but each stone is clamped to its neighbors in several places by massive iron rivets, bored several inches into each block, and the interstices between the rivet and the block are made one solid mass by means of molten lead." The tubes will be from nineteen feet high to twenty-two and a half feet in the centre, and their uniform width will be sixteen feet, the rail-track being five feet six inches, the national railway-gauge of Canada. The total weight of iron in the tube will be 10,400 tons. The bridge, it is calculated, will cost altogether about £1,250,000. Mr. Robert Stephenson and Mr. M. A. Ross are the architects of this great work, and Messrs. A. T. Brasse, and Bell, the contractors. "There can be no doubt," says the *Canadian News*, "that without the Victoria Bridge, the large and comprehensive traffic-system involved in the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway could only be partially and, by comparison, ineffectually carried out at a very great cost. Montreal is the terminal point of ocean navigation, and is connected with the Lower St. Lawrence and the ocean on one side, and with the great Canadian and American lakes—extending 2,000 miles into the heart of the continent—on the other. It is also the centre from which lines of railway now radiate to Portland, Boston, and New York, and to which lines will converge from the Ottawa and the other rich, though as yet only partially developed, districts of Canada."

The late Mr. Quintin Dick once entertained a large party to dinner, when a sailor knocked violently at the door, and insisted on immediate admission to Mr. Quintin Dick. The servant, supposing he had some message from Mr. D.'s relations in India, introduced him into the dining-room. Mr. D. arose, and the fellow, reaching out his hand, said, "I am your name Quintin Dick?" "It is at your service," "By Jupiter! I'm glad of it. Give us your hand, old boy! My name is Dick Quintin; and, by the powers, we'll have a drop of grog together!" The effect on the company may be easily imagined. Mr. Dick took it in good humor, gave the man half-a-crown, and told the servant to take him into the kitchen, and give him plenty to eat and drink.

From the London News, April 17.
REVIVAL OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE BY FRANCE. The great irregularity of the West African mail steamers has of late interrupted the current of the history of the notorious Regis contract for supplying the French West Indies with purchased Africans. The last arrivals, however, put us in possession of some additional facts, quite conclusive as to the character of this traffic. Subsequently to the news that the Portuguese authorities had refused to allow the French purchase of negroes within the limits of the province of Angola, our readers may recollect that advices from the West Indies announced the arrival in the French Antilles of one of M. Regis's ships, with a cargo of 800 Africans, 100 of whom lost their lives in an attempt to land them. But hitherto there has been nothing positively known as to where this unhappy batch of negroes was obtained. The African mail just arrived fills up this hiatus in the melancholy and miserable tale. It seems that the Stella, after being joined by another ship, the Clara, proceeded beyond the territorial limits of Angola, and there found barracoons filled with slaves belonging to the Cuban charters of various American vessels which have been seized, (equipped for traffic, but without national papers on board), and sent to the Vice Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone for adjudication. A bargain was soon struck with the agents in charge of the barracoons. Eight hundred of these slaves, who had been captured in the regular course of the internal slave trade, and brought down to the coast for exportation, were bought for the Stella, and 400 for the Clara. Of the 800 purchased for the Stella, 600 were shipped in one day; so hurried and unscrupulous were the French agents engaged in this disgusting and cruel transaction. The only thought or care they had was whether the negroes they drove from the barracoons on board the ship were in physical plight to bear a voyage across the Atlantic. That ascertained, into the hold and between decks they were thrust, with an expedition that defies all Spanish competition or rivalry.

And from the slave barracoons southward of Angola, on the west coast of Africa, these 1,200 negroes were carried by the contractors of the Imperial Government of France to Martinique and Guadeloupe. What may have been the mortality of the middle passage is not stated. But it is known from other sources that 100 of the Africans so bought were stamped, and perished on the coast of one of these islands. Let us therefore assume that

operation was one not of emigration, but of commerce. The Spaniards had outbid the French at Whydah; but here the French carried off the slaves crammed into barracoons for Spanish account. In this rivalry the French are surely the greater delinquents. What the Spaniards did at all events a breach of private citizens outraging the laws of their own country. But in the other case, it is the French Government that, clothed with all the moral and physical force of the foremost of European Powers, appeared on the west coast of Africa to revive a slave trade which for thirty years previously had been suppressed, so far as regarded Frenchmen. If for no other fault than this, the French Empire merits the execration of Christendom.

For mark the result, even when M. Regis failed because the Spaniards outbid him. The King of Dahomey—who, since the blockade of his coast and the expulsion of his creature Koscofa from Lagos, had confined his annual sacrifices of human lives to some 25 or 30, many of whom he purchased with cowries—excited by the demand for negroes at Whydah, has this year sailed forth in person, and at the head of a considerable force has surprised a town on the confines of the Yoruba country, and carried off thence between 1,400 and 1,500 of its inhabitants, either to sell or to slaughter. This horrible success will still further stimulate Gazo to the recovery, if that be possible, of his former greatness, which rested on the trade. Already, it seems, he has despatched messengers offering assistance to a deposed Yoruba chief, and proposing to carry war into the Yoruba country. So that not only has the Regis contract disturbed most seriously the revived commerce of the Bights of Benin, and rising the slave trade there, it also threatens to arrest that internal progress on which good men had their eyes so attentively fixed, and to revolutionize a large district where, under the auspices of England, peace, industry, and prosperity, had to all human appearance taken deep root.

Let us for a moment contrast these proceedings with the news of English proceedings brought by the same mails. The Government expedition still remained near Rabba, waiting patiently for the arrival of another steamer up the Niger. There they saw two great native caravans, one going to, the other coming from, Illorin. One of these caravans could not, it is said, have contained fewer than 5,000 persons, and upwards of 1,000 beasts of burden. The caravan on its way to Illorin carried immense quantities of native produce; that returning from Illorin was laden with European goods; and in the latter was an Arab who had seen the English troops at Stamboul going to fight the Russians, and who had visited Gibraltar and other places in the Mediterranean. Here surely we have evidence that the interior of Africa—of negro land—is not a land of despair, such as the French and our West Indians picture it, but a garden of hopefulness. From Rabba (which is to be rebuilt) a line of communication between the expedition had been established with Lagos, and large supplies were being regularly sent with perfect safety over land. Indeed the whole intermediate country appeared deeply interested in rendering every facility for this intercourse; and Lieutenant Glover of the expedition, has gone on to Sierra Leone to equip himself for a journey from the banks of the Niger to Egypt.

Let France, then, persist, if such be the pleasure of the Empire, in reviving the slave trade. The revival may temporarily retard and interfere with our nobler policy, but it will not arrest or terminate it. And if the comparison be to our advantage, the blame and the shame belong to a Government which concluded so wicked a contract as that formed with M. Regis. Unhappily, the Regis contract is not the only evidence of the change of policy in the slave trade which distinguishes the French Empire from the Monarchy of 1830 and the Republic of 1848. The project of law just introduced to the Corps Legislatif, enabling French citizens to become slaveholders in foreign countries, is devised in the same unscrupulous spirit of materialism which purchases negroes out of slave barracoons, and consigns them to a compulsory apprenticeship for inadequate wages in Martinique and Guadeloupe. The fact is indeed only too apparent, that France is again rapidly becoming a Pro-Slavery and slave-trade State, and that not by the choice of its people, but by the will of its ruler.

PENNSYLVANIA YEARLY MEETING OF PROGRESSIVE FRIENDS. The Sixty Yearly Meeting of the Progressive Friends of Pennsylvania will convene at Longwood, near Hamorton, Chester county, on FIRST DAY, the 30th of Fifth month, 1858, at 10 o'clock A. M., and continue its sessions, probably, for three or four successive days.

The friends of Truth, Purity, and Progress, however named or unnamed, are cordially invited to aid us by their presence and co-operation.
OLIVER JOHNSON,
HENRIETTA W. JOHNSON,
JOSEPH A. DUGDALE,
JOHN WILLIAM COX,
And others.

Communications for the Meeting may be addressed to Joseph A. Dugdale, Hamorton, Chester county, Pa., or to Oliver Johnson, Anti-Slavery Office, New York.
Longwood Meeting-house is one mile west of Hamorton, on the road leading to Kennett Square. Strangers are informed that a daily mail-coach runs to the latter place, from Wilmington, Del., passing directly by the Meeting-house. The distance from Wilmington to Longwood is 13 miles.
Express train for Philadelphia and Wilmington, leaving daily communication both by railroad and steamboat.

Theodore Parker and C. C. Burleigh intend being at the Yearly Meeting.
REPUBLIC